

7 killed in gas accident in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Six adults and a child died on Monday when chemicals at an army camp in a densely populated district caught fire and released clouds of choking smoke, Alexandria's Governor Sayed Al Jousaki said. He told reporters about 400 people were in hospital, 40 of them critically ill, after breathing fumes from the powder, used to create smokescreens during army manoeuvres. More than 1,000 civilians and troops were treated after the choking smoke spread over an area where about 250,000 people live, he said. In Cairo, an armed forces spokesman said the powder self-ignited at an army depot in the Al Wardian area of Alexandria. Alexandria University and about 40 schools were closed and doctors were urged to rush to hospitals in the Mediterranean port. An Interior Ministry official said earlier a "spontaneous interaction of a chemical powder stored in the camp" created the pall of smoke, which caused thousands to be evacuated from their homes around the camp. The official declined to specify the type of powder but said it was "used by armies as a smokescreen to camouflage movements."

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Regent attends army celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday patronised a celebration held by the First Royal Armoured Battalion to mark the 37th anniversary of its formation. Prince Hassan attended exercises, sports activities and contests staged by the battalion's personnel and took part in a mountaineering exercise. Prince Hassan distributed cups and prizes to the winners.

16 killed in French air crash

BORDEAUX, France (R) — A French commuter airliner crashed into a wood as it approached Bordeaux airport on Monday, killing all 16 passengers and crew, Air France said. The Brazilian-made Embraer Brasilia aircraft burst into flames when it hit the ground in foggy conditions a few hundred metres short of the runway at Bordeaux's Mérignac airport. Firemen found the badly burned bodies of the 13 passengers and three crew in the charred wreckage. The aircraft was an Air France flight from Amsterdam to Brussels and Bordeaux. Some of the passengers were Belgian children going to spend Christmas in southwest France, the airline said.

Egyptian envoy to Iraq presents credentials

BAGHDAD (R) — Egyptian Ambassador Ibrahim Auf presented his credentials in Iraq on Monday after the restoration of full diplomatic ties last month, an Egyptian embassy spokesman said. He said Mr. Auf was received by Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council. Mr. Auf conveyed a message from President Hosni Mubarak to President Saddam Hussein, reaffirming support for Baghdad in all material and moral aspects.

Syria pledges help to Bonn

BONN (R) — Syria has told West Germany it will step up efforts to secure the release of Rudolf Cordes, a West German taken hostage in Beirut almost a year ago. A senior Bonn politician said on Monday, Hans Stercken, head of parliament's foreign relations committee, said after a trip to Damascus and Beirut that Syrian leaders said they would do more to help in return for better relations with Bonn and the European Community.

Hassan II calls OIC panel meeting

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco called on Monday for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Jerusalem Committee to examine violent clashes in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The official news agency MAP said the King, as chairman of the committee, had sent a message to Islamic heads of state suggesting that their foreign ministers attend the meeting in Morocco on Dec. 27.

INSIDE

- Gulf war marks bloodiest year at sea, page 2
- Jordan expresses solidarity with Palestinians, page 3
- Sorry, no liberty today; have a sewer instead, page 4
- Soviets support Jordan's proposal at U.N., page 5
- Hungary to attend Seoul Olympics, page 6
- Amman Financial Market hits record, page 7
- Soviets launch new space mission, page 8

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي

Arab League diplomat shot in Athens

ATHENS (R) — A gunman shot and wounded a senior Arab League diplomat in Athens on Monday, prompting the league to ask the Greek government to step up security measures for Arab diplomats. Mishkat Nouri Al Hiayli, an Iraqi who is charge d'affaires of the Arab League mission in Athens, was driving to work from his suburban home when the gunman fired seven shots at him. Mr. Hiayli, 46, told doctors who treated him for a shoulder wound that a tall dark young man wearing a white shirt had fired the shots from a sidewalk. "I saw him pulling a gun out of his right pocket. I tried to put the car into reverse, but I didn't manage to do so and he shot me from a distance of about ten metres." Mr. Hiayli managed to drive to hospital where he underwent an operation and emerged smiling. Police were searching for the gunman who got away in a car with two other men. The Arab League said it strongly condemned the attack on Mr. Hiayli. "The Council of the Arab League expresses its concern that there will be any repeat of such attempts and asks the Greek authorities to show more interest and take the necessary security measures for the protection of Arab diplomats," the statement said.

King urges Soviet Union to seek implementation of 598

His Majesty, in banquet speech in Moscow, conveys Arab call for peace in Gulf and settlement to Arab-Israeli conflict

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday renewed a call on the Soviet Union to work towards ending the Iran-Iraq war by ex-

erting efforts to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and also to seek to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference on the Middle East.

In his comments on the Gulf war, the King pointed out that Iraq at the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit in Amman and the Arab World, by adopting a unanimous stand on the side of

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein and Soviet President Andrei Gromyko head talk in Moscow on Monday

Iraq says 3,200 Iranians killed in two attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its forces killed more than 1,200 Iranians early on Monday in repulsing the second assault by Tehran's troops on the southern Gulf warfront in 36 hours.

Baghdad's military spokesman Abdul Jabbar Muhsen told reporters the Iranian attack was launched at 6:40 a.m. (0340 GMT) east of Misian — formerly Al Amarah — on the northern edge of the Huweizah marshlands.

The attacking forces, from the 77th Infantry Division, were confronted with heavy Iraqi fire that prevented them from reaching even the forward Iraqi observation posts and no-man's land, Mr. Muhsen said.

Iran claimed its troops killed or wounded 1,000 Iraqis and foiled five Iraqi counter-attacks in the Fakkel area, 50 kilometres north of Misian.

Iraq is widely expected to launch a major offensive on the southern front in the seven-year-old war, with the major southern Iraqi port of Basra regarded as a likely target.

Iran earlier had claimed its forces killed or wounded 1,500 Iraqis in a weekend thrust into Iraq, in the same general border region as Monday's fighting.

"If the Iranians continue to carry out such attacks they will have to take massive losses without being able to gain an inch of land, as was demonstrated over the past two days," the Iraqi spokesman said Monday.

"Total enemy casualties exceeded 2,000 with military equipment destroyed and huge quantities of arms captured intact," a commander of Iraq's Fourth Army Corps which repelled the resistance fighters withdrew after a two-hour firefight, the sources added.

A senior Iraqi officer said Iran threw two regular army brigades plus special forces into the battle, which ended on Sunday morning after 12 hours of fierce fighting.

The Iranians did not say how many men were involved in the weekend attack around Zobeidat, 200 kilometres north of Basra.

The Bagdad spokesman said the "security zone" fired hundreds of shells into the market town of Nabatiyah and seven surrounding villages in apparent retaliation for the raid. Israeli helicopter gunships strafed nearby olive

salem. The police opened fire, killing one and wounding four other Arabs, according to the officials.

In the nearby village of Toubas, the army said dozens of Arabs staged a violent protest and firebombs were thrown at Israeli troops and police guarding Manger Square. Residents said troops replied with tear-gas.

At least 10,000 demonstrators marched peacefully in the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza, chanting nationalist slogans and waving Palestinian flags while Israeli troops stood by.

"We're trying to be liberal," a senior police officer told Reuter. "We don't have to stop everything. Let them express themselves a bit."

The Palestine Press Service said Bassel Faisel, 18, who died in Toubas, was shot four times, once in the head.

A doctor and a nurse at the Al Ittihad hospital in Nablus confirmed the death. They declined to give their names.

White-helmeted police fired tear gas and chased about 50 protesters in Nazareth.

Eight Arabs were handcuffed and carried away in a jeep, and

(Continued on page 4)

Israeli troops kill 3 Arabs; protests engulf all Palestine

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli troops killed three Palestinian protesters and wounded 12 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday as anti-occupation demonstrations spread to Arab towns inside Israel.

Two protesters were killed and several others injured at Toubas village near Nablus while a third man was killed at a refugee camp in Jenin, international news agencies reported.

The killings raised the officially reported death toll to 19 in a wave of protests that began on Dec. 8 in the occupied Gaza Strip before spreading to the West Bank, Arab Jerusalem and, on Monday, to Arab towns inside Israel.

Arabs throughout Israel staged a general strike on Monday in solidarity with their brethren in the occupied territories.

Israeli officials said demonstrators threw five firebombs at Israeli police in the town of Jenin, 100 kilometres north of Jeru-

salem. The police opened fire, killing one and wounding four other Arabs, according to the officials.

At one point police ran out of tear gas and extra supplies had to be rushed to forces in the field, according to the spokesman.

(Continued on page 4)

Resistance storms SLA in support of Palestinians

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters attacked Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon on Monday, drawing heavy artillery retaliation, reports reading here.

Sources quoted by AP said 12 people were killed and 11 wounded.

The sources said the fighters attacked a position manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Ali Al Taher hill inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" before dawn.

Five attackers were killed and two SLA militiamen wounded in close-quarter combat before the resistance fighters withdrew after a two-hour firefight, the sources added.

An Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed that five fighters of Hizbullah (Party of God) were killed, but said only one SLA militiaman was wounded.

The Hizbullah communiqué said an Israeli Merkava tank was set on fire in the attack.

The Bagdad spokesman said the "security zone" fired hundreds of shells into the market town of Nabatiyah and seven surrounding villages in apparent retaliation for the raid. Israeli helicopter gunships strafed nearby olive

groves.

Palestinians said five civilians and two policemen were killed and nine civilians, including two Lebanese Red Cross volunteers, were wounded when their ambulance was hit by shellfire.

The assault was seen as a display of support of Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

The fighting erupted as Arabs in Israel joined Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in a general strike to protest against the killing of Arab demonstrators by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

The Iran-financed Islamic Resistance, comprising Hizbullah fighters and other groups, said in a statement in the southern port of Sidon that its members had attacked several SLA posts.

"It was a big attack to salute our struggling brothers in the occupied land. These attacks will surely boost their morale and give them an incentive to continue," an Islamic Resistance official told Reuters in Beirut.

The Hizbullah-run "Voice of Islam" radio, monitored in the eastern town of Baalbeck, said the attack "was a gift from the Islamic Resistance to the Muslims of occupied Palestine."

GCC ministers begin meeting in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal stressed the need for a "maximum degree of alertness" Monday as he chaired a preparatory meeting for the annual summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

King Fahd will be chairing the summit opening here Saturday with the participation of the rulers of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Under the GCC umbrella, the six countries are pledged to collective security measures against any menace to a member state.

"We are meeting today in light of very critical international circumstances and our region is passing through one of its critical and dangerous phases," Prince Faisal said.

"This calls for a maximum degree of alertness and clarity of vision so that we can properly evaluate matters."

The Saudi minister referred to "suspicious plots being hatched against our region to divert us from achieving our desired objectives of security, stability and prosperity."

He did not elaborate.

USSR strongly supports Jordan's NIHO proposal

By a Staff Reporter

In A WELCOME move, the Soviet Union sponsored a resolution at the recently concluded session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York to support the Jordanian proposal concerning a New International Humanitarian Order (NIHO). The Soviet resolution was adopted by consensus on the recommendation of its Third Committee which deals with humanitarian issues.

The proposal to promote the new humanitarian order was made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the General Assembly and has been the subject of a series of supporting resolutions. It also led to the establishment of a high-powered



comprehensive report on NIHO next year dealing, among other things, with the matters raised by the Soviet resolution.

The secretary general's report is called for under another resolution which was moved earlier by the Jordanian delegation and which was also adopted by consensus by the General Assembly. Full texts of the two resolutions appear on page 5.

Arabs express solidarity with Palestinians

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Cars stopped and government offices fell silent for one minute in Kuwait on Monday in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, responding to a letter from Liberal Party member Lord Winchelsea, said he will urge the Israelis to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

He urged Israel to behave "scrupulously, in accordance with international law," pending its withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Kuwait, residents said the minute of silence was widely observed in government institutions, but less so in the private sector.

At Arab League headquarters in Tunis, officials halted work, while the people of Algeria and Morocco observed a minute's silence, radios reported.

In Egypt, university students needed the Arab League call. Students also burned a replica of the Israeli flag after the government on Sunday lodged its fifth angry protest with Israel over the violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

South Yemen also observed a minute silence Monday in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In Aden, sirens blew and were broadcast by the state-run radio to alert inhabitants as the noon hour struck.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), hundreds of Palestinians gathered at the Abu Dhabi office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in what an official said was an open-ended protest in solidarity with our heroic brothers."

In Rome, Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the controversial former head of the Greek Catholic (Melkite) church in Jerusalem, began a hunger strike on Monday over Israel's handling of the protests in the occupied territories.

A spokesman for Archbishop Capucci, who on Sunday prayed in St. Peter's Square with 10 Arab ambassadors, told Reuters the archbishop had started an indefinite hunger strike in the Rome office of the Arab League to express solidarity with the Palestinians.

Archbishop Capucci was head of the Greek Catholic Church in Jerusalem until 1974 when he was convicted by an Israeli court of smuggling weapons to Palestinians. He was released three years later on health grounds after intervention by Pope Paul VI.

In Cairo, Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III on Monday was reported to have appealed to Christians around the world to boycott Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank to protest Israeli military action against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Britain pledges to seek end to Israeli oppression

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government has pledged to act bilaterally and through the United Nations and the European Community (EC) to help end the cycle of violence and ease Israeli oppression of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, responding to a letter from Liberal Party member Lord Winchelsea, said he will urge the Israelis to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

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Gulf war marks bloodiest year at sea; peace hopes reportedly dim

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Stalemate on the battlefield and carnage at sea — 1987 was the year that Iran and Iraq's bloody vendetta finally captured world headlines and sucked the superpowers into the Gulf war arena.

But despite an armada of Western warships patrolling the Gulf, more seamen died than in any of the war's previous six years and prospects for peace in 1988 appear as slim as ever.

Western diplomats in the Gulf said even a new readiness by Moscow to back an Iranian arms embargo was unlikely to break diplomatic deadlock at the United Nations or halt fighting.

"The only hope for an end to the war seems to be the United Nations... but the chances are slim and it looks like the fighting will just roll on for another year," said one diplomat.

Another said: "There are fears that superpower politics will get in the way at the U.N. and peace is secondary."

Moscow made a series of well received overtures to moderate Arab states in early 1987, but is now viewed with deep suspicion after a warming of relations with Iran in past months.

And there are lingering fears among Gulf states over Washington's long-term commitment to the region. Some fear that the U.S. only agreed to protect Kuwaiti tankers under the Stars and Stripes in mid-year to keep Soviet influence at bay.

Ozal names new cabinet

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced on Monday a cabinet of both familiar and new faces to grapple with pressing economic and other domestic issues.

Major appointments included Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan and State Ministers Adnan Kahveci and Mehmet Yazar.

Mr. Ozal, who won a new five-year mandate last month, has made continued economic reform and Turkish entry to the European Community (EC) major goals of his new administration.

He enlarged the cabinet's size to 25 from 23, adding two state ministerial posts. The list was approved by President Kenan Evren.

Mr. Ozal kept Finance Minister Ahmet Kurtice Alptemecin and Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem.

Apart from Mr. Kahveci and Mr. Vuralhan, other new faces include Health Minister Bulent Akarcu, Labour and Social Security Minister Irem Aykut —

simply a raid.

At sea, Iraq is expected to keep up relentless pressure against Iran's fleet of oil tankers, sending daily raiding sorties of Mirage jets armed with French-made Exocet missiles.

Twenty-one sailors lost their lives 10 days ago when missiles slammed into the Norwegian-operated tanker Sustang on the treacherous Iranian crude shuttle-run down the Gulf.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have attacked neutral shipping with a new ferocity, this month sinking their first ship since the so-called tanker war flared in 1984.

Their hit-and-run tactics fly in the face of Western navies — now with some 80 warships, minesweepers and support vessels in the region — and diplomats say attacks are becoming bolder.

At least 71 merchant seamen have died this year and 37 U.S. sailors were killed when an Iraqi Exocet hit the frigate Stark in May. In 1986, 52 seamen were killed, while the number of Iraqi and Iranian attacks has risen to at least 135 from 80.

On the diplomatic front, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is still trying to rally support for an arms embargo against Iran to force Tehran's leadership to accept the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire call.

But diplomats said the Soviet Union, which has long blocked the move, was probably asking too high a price to secure a deal with the United States and Britain — namely the formation of a

joint U.N. naval force to police an embargo.

Washington has made clear it would view with suspicion any move that might reduce its huge presence in the Gulf and allow Moscow to increase its foothold.

A compromise would be a limited U.N. force to check vessels entering the Gulf for Iran-bound weapons, but military analysts doubt an embargo would be effective or alter Tehran's refusal to accept a ceasefire.

"I think we will see more of the same in 1988," said a Western diplomat. "War will play for time and every so often the war will spill over."

Kuwait, which triggered closer superpower involvement when it sounded out Moscow on chartering tankers to protect oil exports from Iranian attack, has been at the receiving end.

Ten bomb blasts have rocked Kuwait this year, the most serious on May 22 when fire at the Al Ahmadi industrial complex threatened to engulf key oil installations. Local newspapers blamed pro-Iranian Kuwaiti extremists.

Kuwait has also become a firing range for Iran's Chinese-designed Silk worm missiles, one of which slammed into a U.S. flag Kuwaiti tanker the Sea Isle City off its shores in October.

Saudi Arabia has also felt Iran's wrath, with attacks against its oil tankers and riots in the Holy City of Mecca in late July. The Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies were later stormed in Tehran.

Israel to sack 4 soldiers over hang-glider attack

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said on Monday it was dismissing an officer and three soldiers for failing to halt a hang-glider attack by a Palestinian who killed six soldiers in northern Israel last month.

"The service of an officer and three non-commissioned-officers who did not live up to reasonable standards under fire will be terminated," an army spokesman said.

Libya, Algeria sign 4 treaties

BEIRUT (R) — Libya and Algeria signed four bilateral treaties as part of the strengthening of ties among the five Maghreb states. Libya's official news agency (JANA) said.

The agency, monitored in Beirut, said the treaties were finalised at the closing session of the joint Libyan-Algerian Arab Executive Committee meeting.

"Both countries signed four

treaties: to cooperate on the level of manpower, cultural activities, social insurance as well as tourism," the agency said.

Earlier on Sunday, JANA said that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi opened talks in Tripoli with Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi and praised unity efforts by President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria.

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Ties of success and harmony

HIS MAJESTY'S official visit to the Soviet Union to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials comes at a very critical period in international relations and in the midst of a hybrid of issues and conflicts in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

His Majesty's trip to the Soviet Union marks the continuation of steady and sober development of good relations between Moscow and Amman since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1963. Bilateral relations have witnessed progressive improvement on a wide range of issues and subjects, including purchases of sophisticated Soviet military hardware to strengthen Jordanian defences. In political terms, the meeting of the Soviet and Jordanian minds on the need to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East has brought the two countries closer in perspective and orientation on the Arab-Israeli conflict. As chairman of the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit, King Hussein would most certainly transmit joint Arab appreciation for Moscow's endorsement of the proposal for an international conference and would press the Soviet government for even more invigorating support for it. Indeed, the Amman summit adopted a unanimous position in support of convening such a conference, the need for which became all the more pressing by the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But what still needs to be done on the political front is to bridge any gap that may still exist between the Arab position on the Iran-Iraq war as elaborated and articulated in the Amman summit and that of the Soviet Union.

Surely the Gulf conflict will figure highly on the agenda of the Jordanian-Soviet talks with a view to eliminate any remnants of division of thought and assessment on the Gulf situation. What is at stake is still the projected follow-up resolution by the United Nations Security Council to enforce Resolution 598.

On the economic and cultural fronts, Jordanian-Soviet relations have made remarkable leaps forward in the course of the last two and a half decades; and there is scope for improvement in these ties.

In sum, the story of Jordanian-Soviet relations has been but one of success and harmony, blessed with fruitful results and positive consequences on many levels and in numerous fields. We shall await the conclusion of the talks between the Jordanian and Soviet leaders with great anticipation and hopes.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King carries Arab message

KING Hussein Monday started a state visit to the Soviet Union, a visit which assumes significance by Arab and international standards. The King visits the Soviet Union as chairman of the last Arab summit which achieved consensus and agreement among Arab states. He will therefore represent not only Jordan but also the rest of the Arab countries in his talks with Soviet leaders on regional issues and subjects of common interest to the Soviet Union and the Arab World. His talks will most certainly cover the Middle East question and Israel's continued occupation of Arab land, and its adamant stand in not recognising the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and its current escalation of repressive measures against the Arab population and its terrorist actions waged against the civilians under its rule. The King's discussions with Kremlin leaders will also cover the situation in the Gulf region and Iran's intransigent position and its continued aggression on Arab territory in defiance of the will of the international community. Apart from these two issues, the monarch is bound to review with the Soviet leaders other world topics and the question of maintaining and enhancing world peace. Indeed, the Soviet Union has been supporting Arab just causes and Moscow's stand is appreciated by all Arab countries. For Jordan, the Soviet Union is a friend and its relations with the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular have been strengthened over the years in the best interest of the Arab and Soviet peoples.

Aj Dustour: Great freedom

PRINCE Hassan's address to a symposium on media graduates contained a valuable set of ideas and directives aimed at tackling the problem of unemployed graduates and also to promote the journalism profession in the Kingdom. Prince Hassan noted that freedom offered to journalists in this country was great compared with other Arab countries, and that the Jordanian constitution guarantees freedom of opinion and freedom of speech and writing. This statement should prompt all journalists to benefit from the offered opportunity, and develop mass communication. Prince Hassan told the meeting that journalism was becoming open to specialisation in its various aspects, and this should open the way for training and research and also the establishment of a research centre in mass communication to promote this profession. For this reason, the seminar which was organised by the Jordanian Journalists Association (JJA) aimed at re-evaluating the journalism profession in the Kingdom with a view to finding more proper and efficient manner for developing the work of journalists in the press, radio and television and reorganising the JJA's performance in all sectors.

Sawt Al Shaab: King visits a great friend

KING Hussein Monday began a visit to the Soviet Union where it is hoped he will bring to the attention to the superpower different aspects of regional issues. The King heads for Moscow at a time when the world nations in general and the Arab World in particular continue to pay tribute to his efforts in his drive to achieve peace and stability to the Middle East. The visit reaffirms the common denominators and the close cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Arab World since the King will be representing the whole Arab Nation in talks with the friends of the Arabs, and the supporters of Arab just causes. Jordan, under King Hussein, finds in the Soviet Union a true friend, backing the Arab Nation's efforts in achieving peace and ending conflicts in this region of the world. The Soviet Union has been calling for a solution to the Middle East problem in a peaceful manner, and through an international conference.

The View from Second Circle

Sorry, no liberty today; have a sewer instead

this fundamental point.

Why is it that Mr. Murphy does not want to improve the economic conditions of the people of Afghanistan, but rather — and rightly — insists that they should enjoy freedom from military occupation? Why does the United States not condemn extremism and violence in Nicaragua and Afghanistan? Is it perhaps because in those cases it finances, arms and diplomatically supports armed groups actively involved in acts of violence against the political order? Precisely how much arrogance and hypocrisy are Arab governments willing to accept from the United States, before something is done in response?

The Palestinian children in the occupied territories fight back with sticks and stones. The rest of the Arab World watches, and occasionally requests to purchase American arms, or to use American flags, or to rent American surveillance aircraft. The hypocrisy of the Americans is matched by the lassitude and contradictions of the Arabs. The pity and the sadness engulf us all.

Mr. Murphy invites laughter and disdain when he says that the United States "condemns violence and extremism in all forms, and from all sides," and "encourages Israel to assure that its occupation practices are consistent with accepted international standards and the legitimate needs of maintaining security."

These are words that are not substantiated by the facts on the ground. The United States' policy to the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on the primary of Israeli security dictates and acquiescence to its political postures, appears rather to reward extremism and to invite violence. How else do we interpret the emergence of the Israeli messianic right in the 1970s and 80s being followed by a string of \$3 billion annual aid packages to Israel, the free trade zone accord, pacts on strategic defence research and cooperation, and other bilateral moves that change the status of the American-Israeli relationship from cooperation to apparent axis and alliance?

The United States, following the Israeli lead, refuses to accept that the Palestinians are entitled to national self-determination; it refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the internationally recognised Palestinian leadership; it rejects the concept of an independent Palestinian state. Why is it surprised, therefore, that Palestinians, once or twice a year, rise up in angry protest?

And how doubly shocking it is, consequently, to hear a superpower indicate that its official policy is that its surrogate/ally should adhere to internationally accepted standards of occupation. Is this the best we can expect from the United States, the country which gave the world the concept of the self-determination of all peoples? The United States comes down on the side of those who would, in the circumstances, adhere to internationally accepted codes of occupation? How pitiful, how sad! it all has become in these closing years of the 1980s.

In South Africa, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Poland, Zimbabwe, South Korea, Haiti and other countries, the United States took a principled and admirable stand on the side of human rights, freedom, dignity and honesty. It recognised the need to end turmoil on the ground through a negotiated, peaceful resolution of existing political inequities or military occupations. But the United States does not feel that the Palestinian people are entitled to the same treatment. Why not? We would like to hear Mr. Murphy explain.

We don't hear that Palestinians should enjoy freedom. We don't hear that the credo of Patrick Henry applies to the Palestinians. We don't hear that the Palestinians should have self-determination. We don't hear that the antidote to occupation is liberation.

And that's why we do hear gunshots, and rebellious Palestinian children, and the sounds of Palestinians and Israelis dying, and among it all, far away in Washington, the gruesome and senseless sound of official United States policy that uniquely denies an entire people their right to self-determination and freedom. Therefore, the violence and extremism will continue — for as long as the vision and the words and the ideals of Patrick Henry move the hearts of all people around the world, but are denied to some people.

By Rami G. Khouri

Why give less than His Excellency?

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U.N. General Assembly adopts Jordan-introduced resolution on a New International Humanitarian Order

On Dec. 9, 1987 and during the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, Jordan, together with 40 other member states presented a proposal for a resolution on a New International Humanitarian Order. Also on Dec. 9, the Soviet Union presented another resolution supporting Jordan's proposed resolution. Both resolutions were adopted without a vote by the General Assembly. Following is the text of the first resolution introduced by Jordan (Resolution introduced by Jordan and co-sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia).

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983 and 40/126 of 13 December 1985;

Recalling further the reports of the Secretary-General.

Bearing in mind the comments communicated by Governments to the Secretary-General regarding a new international humanitarian order,

Recognising the urgent need further to improve and strengthen the international framework relating to humanitarian issues, while taking fully into account existing instruments and mechanisms,

Noting with concern that emergencies and disasters, mostly man-made, have increased in frequency in recent years, posing a growing challenge to mechanisms of international responses to them;

Aware that institutional arrangements and actions of governmental and non-governmental bodies require further invigoration as well as adjustment to new realities in order to respond more effectively and speedily to contemporary humanitarian problems,

Noting the efforts of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues to promote public awareness of humanitarian issues, analyse relatively neglected aspects and identify alternative approaches for resolving humanitarian problems,

Noting further the establishment, outside the United Nations, of an Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to disseminate and follow up on the work of the Independent Commission,

Taking note of the report of the Independent Commission, as well as the sectoral reports on specific humanitarian issues;

1. Expresses its appreciation to the co-chairmen and members of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues for their humanitarian endeavours;

2. Draws the attention of Governments as well as intergovernmental organisations, including those functioning at the regional level, to the report of the Independent Commission;

3. Requests the Independent Commission to transmit its report to Member States as well as to the executive heads of specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system in order to enable them to consider its analyses and conclusions;

4. Invites all non-governmental organisations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in its report in the context of their policies and actions in the field;

5. Invites Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action and to strengthen international cooperation in the humanitarian field;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments, relevant specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, non-governmental organisations concerned as well as the independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report, on the basis of information made available to him, on the progress made in the humanitarian field to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

7. Decides to review at its forty-third session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

Following is the text of the second resolution introduced by the Soviet Union

International cooperation in the humanitarian field

The General Assembly

Noting that the United Nations under its Charter has to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character,

Guided in particular by the commitment in the Charter to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person,

Mindful of the significant contribution to international cooperation in the humanitarian field made by organisations and agencies of the United Nations system,

Recognising the positive role played by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

Recognising, in this connection, the importance of the contribution of governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Recognising the significance of the existing workable system to promote, facilitate and coordinate humanitarian activities carried out by Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations,

Mindful of the importance of promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field for improving relations among States and peoples,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue its efforts in the field of humanitarian activities and to provide the resources to develop further activities in the humanitarian field,

Conscious that people want to live in a better, safer and more just world,

1. Encourages the international community to develop further its cooperation in the field of international humanitarian activities;

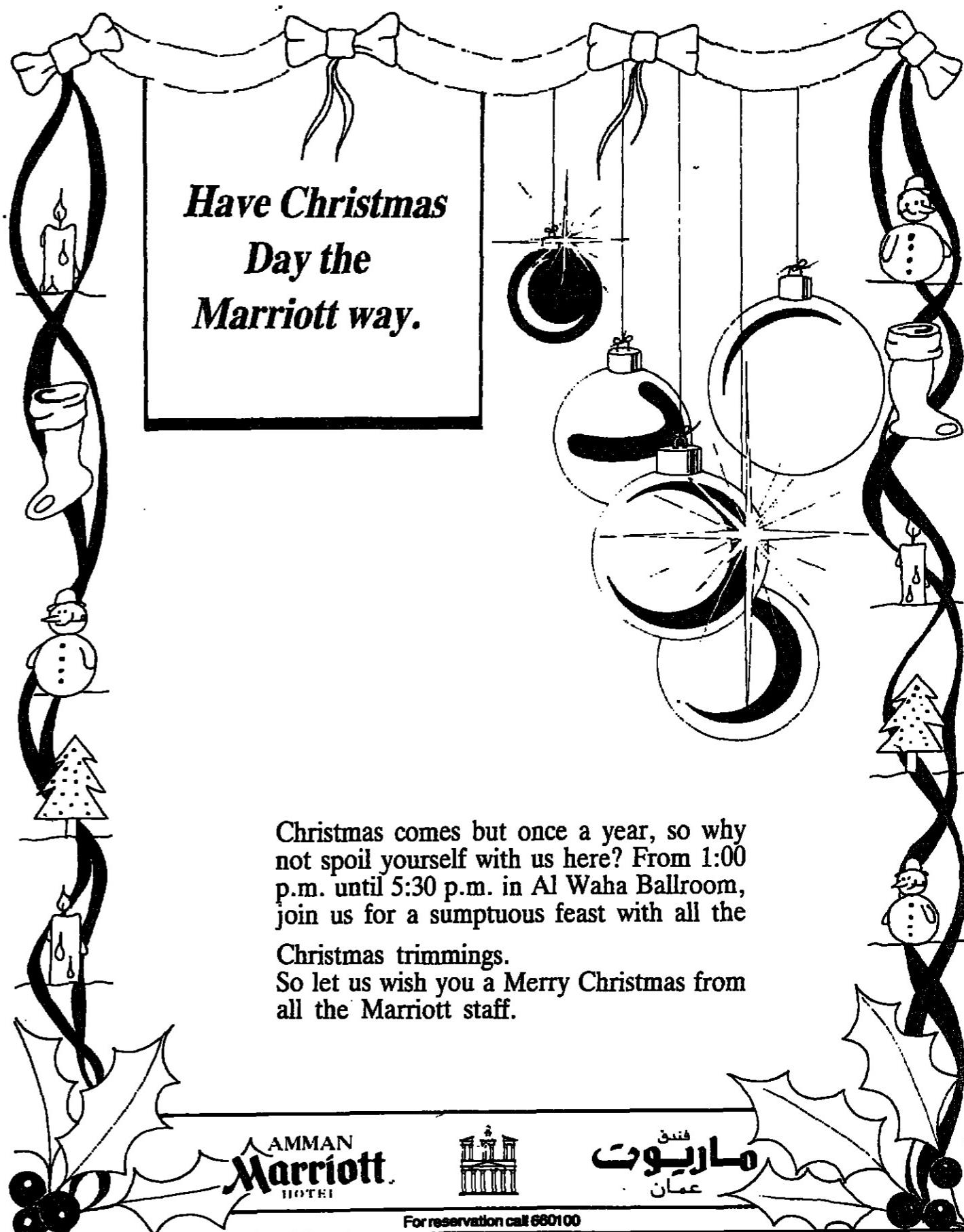
2. Calls upon all States to cooperate for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to work together to promote international cooperation in order to solve existing humanitarian problems of international concern;

3. Encourages the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities;

4. Considers that international cooperation in the humanitarian field will facilitate better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among States and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;

5. Invites Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field on the basis of relevant international instruments;

6. Decides to consider the question of international cooperation in the humanitarian field under the item entitled "New international humanitarian order."

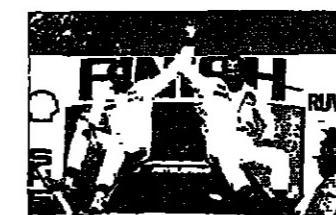


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Hungary reportedly to attend Seoul Olympics

Japan fears North Korean sabotage at games

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary announced on Monday it would participate in the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the first Soviet Bloc ally to confirm it would take part.

The official MTI news agency reported that the Hungarian national Olympic committee had unanimously agreed to participate in the games.

MTI said the Hungarian team would consist of 210 active sportsmen and about 90 officials.

The participation of Soviet Bloc countries had been in doubt because of North Korea's insistence that it share the staging of the games with Seoul.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), based in Switzerland, later confirmed that Hungary had notified it of its decision to take part.

Hungary took part in a Soviet-led boycott of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles which was a retaliation for a U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A dispute between South and North Korea over how many Olympic events should be hosted by Pyongyang has forced Soviet Bloc countries, including China and the Soviet Union, to delay accepting the invitations to the games.

The IOC deadline for accepting the invitations is January 17.

The IOC has been mediating between North and South Korea over the North's demands to stage some of the events.

In Tokyo Japanese security authorities believe North Korea is likely to commit acts of sabotage aimed at damaging the prestige of next year's Seoul Olympics, according to an official report published on Sunday.

The report issued by the Public Security Investigation Agency said it was possible North Korea would take such action as part of an effort to undermine the government of South Korean President-elect Roh Tae Woo.

On Saturday, South Korea said a North Korean agent probably planted a bomb on a Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 which went missing near Burma last month with 115 people aboard. It said a mid-air explosion destroyed the plane.

An East Asian woman was extradited to Seoul from Bahrain on suspicion of planting a bomb on aircraft, which was on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul.

extradited to Seoul from Bahrain on suspicion of planting a bomb on aircraft, which was on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul.

The Sankei Shimbun newspaper quoted senior agency officials as telling Japanese reporters in a background briefing on Monday there was a strong chance that Pyongyang would boycott the Olympics if its hopes to co-host the games were dashed because of its economic situation.

North Korea is demanding the role of co-host of the Summer Games but a series of talks with the South to decide how many sports events would be held in North have ended in deadlock.

The newspaper quoted the officials as saying construction of sports facilities in Pyongyang was apparently targeted for the 13th World Youth and Student Festival scheduled for 1989, and the building programme was slowing economic progress.

It also said that because of the country's gloomy economic prospects, there was little chance North Korean President Kim Il-Sung would handover power to his son, Jong-Il, during the next year.

Dynamic veteran Kasparov outsmarts master of willpower Karpov

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — Gari Kasparov is a media-conscious and outspoken showman of the chess world, enthusiastically backing glasnost in the Soviet Union and appearing on western television to promote chess and soda pop.

In his autobiography he advocates freedom of expression and accuses Soviet sports officials of "dirty tricks" intended to block his path.

Kasparov, now 24, became the youngest chess champion in history when he defeated fellow Soviet Anatoli Karpov in November 1985.

Once described by American grandmaster Tony Miles as "a monster with 27 eyes who sees everything," Kasparov appeared tired and off-form in the championship in Seville.

But in February he played a glitzy television speed match with Britain's Nigel Short on a moving stage against a background of strobe lights.

In October, Kasparov became the first Soviet to star in a western television commercial for Schweppes tonic water, a comical 20-second spot that aired throughout Spain.

A more serious approach was

dropped. Schweppes market director for Spain John de Zulueta said, "When we saw that Gari had such an effervescent personality."

The deal was struck by Kasparov's British manager, a former 42-year-old racing driver, Andrew Page.

Kasparov's showmanship also comes through at the board.

In his second tussle with Karpov in 1985, he floated convention by publicly revealing sealed moves — an act of bravado that delighted the Moscow crowd.

Insiders remain skeptical, however, of Kasparov's suggestion that an aide had passed information to Karpov's team during their third bout split last year between London and Leningrad. Kasparov won the second tussle 13-11, the third 12-11.5.

An advocate of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's espousal of glasnost, or openness on some issues, Kasparov wins radical changes for Soviet society.

"What is happening in our country is not just economic reform, but a restructuring of human thinking," he wrote in his autobiography, "child of change."



The two champs in action

death led "to good things for me and my country."

It was Kasparov's raw talent that first made him a name in chess circles.

"In the hands of this young man lies the future of chess," wrote former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik when his pupil Kasparov was just 11.

Born Gari Kimovich Weinstein on April 13, 1963 in Baku, capital of the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, Kasparov learned chess at the age of five by watching his parents solving chess problems.

He joined Botvinnik's correspondence course, set up to foster the cream of young Soviet talent and now jointly run by Kasparov himself.

Kasparov's father, a Jewish engineer, died when Kasparov was seven. At 12, his name was changed to Kasparov, a Russian form of Kasparian, his Armenian mother's maiden name.

By 16, Kasparov was an inter-

national master. A year later he was a grandmaster and world junior champion and by 1981, Soviet national champion.

With dazzling victories, he swept past all opposition to challenge Karpov.

A Communist Party member since he was 19, Kasparov received early backing from Geidar A. Aliev, the former V. B. party boss in Azerbaijan who left the Politburo in 1981 in an apparent fall from grace.

Kasparov speaks excellent English and is fascinated by computers and their potential. He also enjoys soccer, jogging, music and watching videos.

Until they parted last year, his relationship with Marina Neologova, a well-known Soviet actress, was widely discussed in Moscow.

ANATOLY KARPOV displays icy determination and technical artistry at the chessboard, with a creeping style that has been compared to a boa constrictor slowly squeezing his opponents into submission.

Kasparov scored a record number of tournament victories during his reign as world champion until 1985 and was awarded the annual chess award an unprecedented nine times.

During those years, Kasparov gained close connections with Communist Party leaders who were influential under former

Leontxo Garcia, a Spanish chess commentator, has likened Kasparov's relentless pursuit of small advantages to "a spider weaving a fatal web."

The 36-year-old Muscovite challenger held the world chess crown for 10 years until he lost to Garri Kasparov in 1985.

The longest reigning chess champion was Emmanuel Lasker of Germany, who held the title for 27 years until 1921.

Kasparov's championship career has been dominated by two bitter personal and professional battles, first with Victor Korchnoi, a Soviet defector who now lives in Switzerland, and then with the flashy, outspoken 24-year-old Kasparov.

Kasparov scored a record number of tournament victories during his reign as world champion until 1985 and was awarded the annual chess award an unprecedented nine times.

During those years, Kasparov gained close connections with Communist Party leaders who were influential under former

Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In his autobiography, "Child of Change," Kasparov accuses Karpov of having ruled, "like a Czar of chess."

Karpov, he said, "resisted, by fair means and foul, any bid to usurp his throne. He associated himself with conservative forces in an alliance designed to maintain power for himself and for those who clung to his coattails."

Karpov told the British newspaper Spectator the book was "all lies."

Born Anatoly Evgenyevich Karpov in Zlatoust in the Chelyabinsk region of the Soviet Union, Karpov learned chess at the age of 4 1/2 and enrolled in the chess school of former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in 1963.

"His first reaction to me was that I had no future. ... seven years later I was the new star in chess," Karpov told the Dutch magazine New in Chess, referring to Botvinnik.

In 1969, Karpov won the world junior title in Stockholm, gaining the title of international master. A year later while studying economics at Leningrad University, he became a grandmaster.

A victory in the 1973 Interzonal Tournament opened his way towards the title and in 1975, when the temperamental American star Bobby Fischer refused to defend his throne, Karpov was crowned champion.

Karpov successfully defended his title twice against Korchnoi in Baguio City, Philippines in 1978, and in Merano, Italy in 1981.

After the second victory, Karpov sent a telegramme to Brezhnev, declaring: "my work is completed."

In September 1984, he faced Karpov. The winner required six victories — draws not counting.

Karpov established a 5-0 lead, but after a marathon series of draws through the long Moscow winter, Kasparov fought back to

5-1 and then pulled to 5-3 with two consecutive victories.

The match, already a record-shattering 48 games long, was abruptly halted "without result" at a stormy Feb. 15, 1985, Moscow news conference by World Chess Federation (WCF) President Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines — a move that was to damage Karpov's reputation.

Karpov charged at the time and later in interviews in the west that Campomanes had intervened to "save his friend Karpov."

Boris Spassky, a former world champion, renamed the pair "Karpomanes."

Karpov and Campomanes have repeatedly denied the claims. Campomanes said he halted play because both players were exhausted.

Karpov remained world champion, but in a 24-game rematch starting at 0-0 six months later Karpov seized the title 13-11.

In a revenge match between London and Leningrad in 1986, Karpov kept his title 12.5-11.5. Karpov fought back from a seemingly hopeless situation with three victories in a row from games 17 to 19.

This spring, Karpov crushed fellow Soviet Andrei Sokolov 7.5-3.5 in Linares, 150 miles (240 km) north of Seville, to win the right to challenge Karpov.

Karpov is chairman of the Soviet Peace Fund and a member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League.

Karpov has a 7-year-old son also called Anatoly, from his first marriage.

According to "the complete chess addict," Karpov once described his hobbies as stamp collecting and Marxism."

But observers have remarked in the last two years that Karpov seems increasingly open and relaxed. He even commented on the Seville match for the American newspaper, USA Today.

His marriage this summer to a striking 24-year-old librarian from Moscow was, according to Spanish international master Ricardo Calvo, "his first move in the championship match."

Karpov swims and plays tennis to keep fit, speaks excellent English and enjoys reading Agatha Christie mystery novels.

Karpov is also fond of snooker, a variation of pool popular in Europe, and is on good terms with Britain's Steve Davis, the world snooker champion.

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Champagne for Napoli, Spanish giants humbled

ROME (R) — Champagne and Christmas cake were on offer in the Napoli dressing room on Sunday when the Italian champions celebrated a 4-1 win over Verona and their continuing First Division leadership.

But for Spanish giants Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona the final full European soccer programme of 1987 ended on a flat note as they all suffered unexpected defeats.

Leaders Real Madrid conceded two goals in the opening 12 minutes at Seville as they were beaten 2-1 by Real Betis. Atletico lost 1-0 at home to Seville and Barcelona crashed 4-2 at home to Real Valladolid.

Veteran midfielder Hipolito Rincon created Betis' goals for Jose Melenas and Quico Ruiz.

The Madrileno, sorely missing Miguel Tendillo, scrambled a goal from defender Manuel Sanchez minute from time, but could not avoid their second defeat of the season.

Celtics cling to NBA Atlantic Division

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics, who have struggled lately, are not quite ready to relinquish control of the NBA's Atlantic Division.

They emphatically made that point Sunday night with a 124-87 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers, who would have taken a percentage-points lead in the division with a victory at Boston Garden. The Celtics, who are 8-8

since starting the season 6-0, have

Cesar Luis Menotti, Atletico's Argentine coach, was furious at his team's failure to take advantage of their rivals' downfall. "It is a step backwards," he said. "There was nervousness, precision and confusion."

Atletico were without Portuguese striker Paulo Futre as they went down to a 35th minute strike by Ramon Vazquez. Real Sociedad moved up to second with a 2-1 win at Real Murcia.

Barcelona's foreigners — West German Bernd Schuster, with a penalty, and England's Gary Lineker — put them 2-1 ahead against Valladolid, but Barcelona had no answer to Manuel Pena who grabbed a hat-trick after Manuel Hierro had opened the scoring.

Schuster, whose contract expires in June 1988, has been linked with a possible move to Real Madrid, Roma or Juventus.

Roma were the only winners. They beat Pescara 5-1 but remain fourth behind Napoli. Milan and Sampdoria.

Napoli's win featured Bruno Giordano scoring the 2,000th goal of the club's 61-year history — an honour which would have been Diego Maradona's had his 80th minute penalty not been saved.

Salvatore Bagni, Giordano and Maradona all scored earlier to put Napoli in command against a Verona team lacking seven key players through injury and suspensions.

Roma — with Franco Tancredi back in goal after being struck by firework the previous week — overwhelmed Pescara with goals from Massimo Agostino (two), Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Pollicino and a Romano Galvani own goal.

Juventus, with Welshman Ian Rush showing some of his best form in the absence of Danish striker Michael Laudrup, drew 1-1 with Sampdoria. Antonio Cabrini and Pietro Vierchowod scored.

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Rome to push for new lira

ROME (R) — Italy hopes to cut its currency down to size next year and to banish some of the multiple noughts which mean that an average salary is around one million lira (\$833) a month.

Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato said that in 1988 the government would try once again to bring in a new lira worth 1,000 times more than the existing currency.

He said on Italian radio that he hoped economic conditions would be right for the move.

The government approved draft laws for the new lira last year, hoping to boost the Italian economy as well as the currency's image.

The draft expired before reaching parliament because the legislature was dissolved early and national elections were called because of a long-running political crisis.

The lira's multiple noughts are a headache for accountants, frequently over-running the capacity of calculators.

Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini was one of the key backers of the new lira last time it was proposed. He was treasury minister at the time.

Greek parliament approves budget

ATHENS (AP) — Parliament has approved the Socialist government's 1988 budget, which calls for increased spending on welfare while posting a record deficit.

The 300-member chamber passed the budget by 157 to 122 votes with 15 abstentions and six defections absent.

The 3.4-trillion drachma (\$26.1 billion) budget provides a 42.8 per cent hike in health and welfare spending to cover expanded state medical services and boost pensions.

But Premier Andreas Papandreou told the chamber that the 957-billion drachma (\$7.4 million) deficit forecast for 1988 will not cause a higher foreign debt.

Mr. Papandreou said that increased foreign exchange inflows would enable the government to

hold the foreign debt at its current \$16.5 billion level.

The premier also warned that the government would keep a tight check on spending next year, although its two-year austerity programme ends on Dec. 31.

"Our policy aims at increasing workers' real incomes next year through logical raises respecting their efforts," Mr. Papandreou said.

The average Greek worker's income has declined by 12 per cent in real terms since 1985 because of a near-freeze on wages in both public and private sectors.

The austerity programme has reduced Greece's current account deficit from a record \$3.3 billion in 1985 to a predicted \$1.2 billion this year.

OAPEC calls for integrated Arab energy data system

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has called for greater joint Arab efforts to create an integrated data system for the Arab and oil and petrochemical industries.

An editorial in the current OAPEC Bulletin says such a system would be invaluable in compiling studies and reports leading to increased Arab cooperation, particularly petroleum and petrochemical product sales.

The OAPEC secretariat is gathering information on petroleum and other energy sources in member countries and other Arab states in cooperation with national institutions and international organisations.

The ultimate success of the project would depend on the cooperation of OAPEC member countries in supplying the required data, concludes the editorial.

Turkey to provide 1.6m jobs

ANKARA (R) — A project to irrigate large swathes of southeastern Turkey and generate electricity will provide up to 1.6 million jobs when completed in the early 1990s, a university study said.

The great Anatolian project, based on the Ataturk Dam across the Euphrates river, will irrigate areas north of the Syrian border and provide up to a fifth of Turkey's electricity needs.

A study prepared by Cukurova University in the southern city of

Adana said the project would create jobs mainly in the technical and agricultural fields.

It would also help to develop the southeast, scene of a Kurdish rebel insurgency which has claimed more than 800 lives since mid-1984.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal gave assurances in Damascus in July on the amounts of water Syria would receive from the Euphrates when the dam was built. Syria had sought guarantees that water flows across the border would not be affected.

U.S. manufacturing system suffering variety of ills

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Made in the USA" now often means poor productivity, low quality, high cost and resistance to innovation, according to a study by an MIT management expert.

Mr. Lester C. Thurow, dean of the School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said in an article that the United States lags behind Japan and other countries in productivity, product quality and manufacturing innovation.

Writing in the Journal of Science, Dr. Thurow said there is no single reason for a steady erosion of America's position in the industrial world, but that there are a variety of flaws that work together to damage the U.S. economic picture.

Among the problem cited by Dr. Thurow:

— Service productivity: U.S. service productivity increased at the level of three per cent in the 1950s and 1960s. But it now usually is less than one per cent while the rest of the world's service productivity is increasing by about four times that rate.

— Manufacturing productivity: The U.S. growth rate from 1979 to 1985 averaged 3.1 per cent per year. This is slower than the major European countries and

was far behind the 5.7 per cent rate experienced by Japan.

— Product quality: "The United States definitely lags," said Dr. Thurow. In manufacturing robots, for example, he said Japanese machines are five times more accurate than those produced in the U.S. The failure rates of some American air conditioners is 500 to 1,000 times greater than Japanese products.

"The average U.S. manufacturer suffered 70 times as many assembly-line defects and made 17 times as many service calls in the first year of services as others," he writes. Also, U.S. nuclear reactors average 5.5 emergency shutdowns annually, compared with only 0.3 for the average Japanese reactor.

— Manufacturing innovation: "When it comes to process technologies, Americans are slow to invent and slow to adopt," writes Dr. Thurow. For example, he said U.S. manufacturers use less than one-third as many robots as Japan and have fewer robots per worker than Sweden, Germany or Belgium. In steel technology, Japan far surpasses U.S. companies.

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More than 1,500 missing in Philippine ferry disaster

MANILA (R) — More than 1,500 people were missing on Monday after a Philippine ferry crammed with Christmas travellers sank in flames late on Sunday in what could become the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster.

Both the Manila-bound inter-island ferry Dona Paz and the Victor, a small tanker, sank in the tropical waters off the central Philippine island of Mindoro after colliding in the moonless darkness, the coastguard said on Monday.

Renate Asistorga, 19, one of only 26 survivors listed by the coastguard, said the water teemed with more bodies than rescuers could cope with.

"I saw the floating bodies of children and old people in the water. The rescuers did not pick them up any more," she said.

The coastguard said all but 26 survivors were missing from an official count of 1,556 passengers and crew on the two vessels, which sank in waters with an average depth of 50 metres.

A rescue search ended with darkness, the coastguard said it

hoped some survivors could have been washed ashore in the many areas where there are no communications.

But a spokesman said the dawn could bring a grisly sight.

"Bodies will normally sink, and then they will float back up. In 24 hours they could float or be washed ashore," he said.

At nightfall both the coastguard and the ferry's owners, the Sulpicio Lines, said they had failed to find any trace of either vessel or any more survivors in the search which was hampered by rain.

"It's all negative," said Sulpicio Lines Vice-President Carlos Go. "We have four ships there and we've found nothing at all."

The coastguard said the Dona Paz manifest listed 1,493 passengers — the number it was licensed to carry — but said it carried more than 100 more who did not buy tickets.

Fifty crew were listed on the ferry and 13 on the tanker.

Lieutenant Robert Noblefranca, commander of the coastguard station in the Leyte Island port of Tacloban, said the Dona Paz was packed when it left the port on its tragic voyage at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday.

He said passengers with passes from the shipping line would not have been on the manifest, along with those with no tickets and many children.

In history's worst recorded peacetime sea disaster, 1,503 people were killed when the liner Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg in the Atlantic on its maiden voyage.

According to the newspapers, the Kenyan Foreign Ministry statement also said Ugandan troops ransacked four of the diplomats' homes.

The Kenyan statement said six diplomats in Kampala, including Acting High Commissioner W. Ndege, were arrested by Ugandan security forces Saturday morning and taken to army headquarters where they were questioned for eight hours.

After they were released, the diplomats went to the Kenyan High Commission building, which soon after was surrounded by soldiers who would not allow the Kenyans to leave until Sunday afternoon, the statement said.

The report follows Kenya's expulsion Saturday of Uganda's two top diplomats in the wake of last week's four-day outbreak of shooting along the East African neighbours' border.

Kenya has reported killing 26 Ugandan troops in the border shootings. Uganda has said two of its soldiers died.

The shooting was the most serious clash in a year-long diplomatic row between the countries. Each side accuses the other of starting the conflict by sending armed troops across the border.

"These acts of detaining diplomats and ransacking their houses is clearly a serious violation of the Geneva Convention on diplomatic privileges," said the Kenyan

statement, which was given to the local press Sunday.

No immediate comment was available from the Ugandan government.

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The shooting was the most serious clash in a year-long diplomatic row between the countries. Each side accuses the other of starting the conflict by sending armed troops across the border.

"These acts of detaining diplomats and ransacking their houses is clearly a serious violation of the Geneva Convention on diplomatic privileges," said the Kenyan

statement, which was given to the local press Sunday.

No immediate comment was available from the Ugandan government.

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